

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 1 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 1st January, 1876.

THE *Soma Prakásh* of the 20th December, in the course of an editorial on the opium traffic carried on with China by the Government of India, dwells on the injurious consequences which have resulted to the former country from the use of this drug. It is to be regretted that an enlightened Government, like that of India, should, merely for the sake of its revenue, continue to carry on this most immoral trade which is so ruinous to the people of a neighbouring empire. However much the *Englishman* may be anxious to justify the policy of Government in this matter, the above fact can never be ignored. The Government of India should by all means desist from this dishonorable traffic, and seek by means which are morally sound and just, to recoup itself for its opium revenues.

SOMA PRAKASH,
December 20th, 1875.

2. The *Suhrid* of the 21st December cannot but regard the Government of India as despotic, so long as it continues to make invidious distinctions between Natives and Anglo-Indians, betrays a partiality for men of its own race, and does not learn to be disinterested in all its dealings with the children of the soil. The history of British India abounds with instances of injustice and high-handedness perpetrated on Native Princes and Chiefs.

SUHRID,
December 21st, 1875.

3. Adverting to an article in a recent issue of the *Pioneer*, on the mischievous tendency of the Native Press, the *Vishwa Dút* of the 22nd December observes that there is no ground for questioning the loyalty of the natives, for they are famous for their devotion to the sovereign. The Native Press does instruct the people, though not in the way desired by the *Pioneer*. It will never teach them to blindly imitate the habits and manners of the English nation. Nor will it ever cease to give publicity to cases of oppression committed on natives, and to expose the errors and shortcomings of Government. The wants and grievances of the people will continue to find expression in the native newspapers. Will the native papers cease, for instance, from a false fear of being regarded as disloyal by the *Pioneer*, to remonstrate with Government on the use to which the revenue from the road cess has been employed, to show how large the proceeds from this source have been, and how few roads have been actually constructed with the same?

VISHWA DUT,
December 22nd, 1875.

4. The *Amrita Bázár Patriká* of the 23rd December writes the following towards the conclusion of an editorial on the visit of the Prince of Wales to Calcutta:—The gigantic preparations made at Calcutta to accord a fitting reception to the Prince of Wales may be expected to produce, if not positive delight and wonder, at least a feeling of pride in the mind of His Royal Highness. He will be proud to think that the just administration of the country by the British, though for a short time, has made the

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 23rd, 1875.

Hindus more loyal to the Government than they were ever under the Mahomedan rule with all its artifices, honesty, and rigour. May Providence make that sacred impression lasting, which will thus be produced in his mind! If in all our weal and woe he has this conviction firm in his mind that the natives of India are loyal; if he has this conviction when we may happen to appear in any way discontented—owing to our poverty, the rigours of the administration, or the oppressions of a Viceroy, or when we may happen to become vain in our prosperity,—all these festivities, unlimited expenses, and inconvenient gatherings of the people in the city will be productive of good. We repeat what we have said before, that the good of India in future depends in a large measure on this visit of the Prince. His Royal Highness is so liberal in his views, and his fame is so wide-spread, that a little effort on the part of the people of Bengal at this opportunity may succeed in inaugurating a number of beneficial measures in the country. The heart of the Prince is naturally tender, while the magnitude of the *fete* about to be given by the people in his honor is calculated to affect him favourably. So that with a little effort we can now impress on his mind the picture of the poverty of India. This is also desired by the people of Bengal. We have all along sought to do it, as also the writers of the large number of poems of welcome that have appeared on this occasion. We should not now forget our interests and miss this opportunity.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 23rd, 1875.

5. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Chittagong, complains of the arbitrary character of the proceedings of the Magistrate in connection with the local municipality, in seeking to construct public latrines in that place, and requiring the people to resort to them against their will. A very high rate of taxation also has been proposed.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
December 25th, 1875.

6. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 25th December observes in reference to the recent Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the last report of the Police Department, that corruption and bribery will continue to prevail in this branch of the public service until the pay of the subordinate officers be raised and a sharp eye be kept on their doings.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 26th, 1875.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th December regrets to observe that the relations between the zemindars and their tenantry are far from being satisfactory at the present time. Pride and insubordination prevail where formerly there were fear and respect. This change in their relations has been brought about chiefly by Act X of 1859. Disputes in connection with the enhancement of rents have been common since that time, and reached their height during the administration of Sir George Campbell. The riots of the tenantry at Pubna were the outcome of his mischievous policy, and have spread over a considerable area, though the policy itself has been given up by his successor. The editor has been led to make the above remarks from a recent case of combined insubordination having occurred among the tenantry of certain villages under stations Srinagar and Nawábgunge, in the Dacca district. The authorities are asked to appoint a special police force to maintain peace in these troubled localities.

DACCA PRAKASH.

8. The same paper describes in a lengthy article the vexation of Manchester at the establishment of cotton mills in India. Finding its interests to be at stake, it is trying its best to ruin the rising industry of India by various means. It now affects philanthropy for the overworked native laborers at these mills, and anon memorializes the Secretary of State for the abolition of the import duties levied in India on cotton goods.

The Government is placed in a delicate position; and it remains to be seen whether it will listen to the complaints of the natives, and nullify the selfish efforts of men who are of its own race and of the same creed.

9. Adverting to the visit of Miss Mary Carpenter to this country, the *Sahachar* of the 27th December writes a lengthy editorial on the necessity of a thorough reformation of the Indian jails. The prisoners in India are ill-fed and ill-clad, and are extremely ill-treated. Even in illness they are not properly cared for. Juvenile offenders are permitted to associate with hardened culprits, and return to society after their period of confinement, not reformed, but worse characters than before. No sort of education is imparted to the criminals in the jails.

SAHACHAR,
December 27th, 1875.

10. The *Suhrid* of the 28th December remarks that the titles of distinction which are now conferred by Government on natives serve but as baits to many a thoughtless zemindar to incur extravagant expenditure, and otherwise to keep the local authorities in good humour. No discretion, moreover, seems to be exercised in selecting the candidates for these honors. We need only refer to the cases of Nawábs Abdul Gunny Meáh and Amir Ali Khán, and Maháranis Swarna Mayí and Shyámá Mohiní. Amir Ali and Shyámá Mohiní have certainly done nothing to deserve the titles of Nawáb and Maháráni—distinctions which were worthily bestowed on Abdul Gunny and Swarna Mayí respectively.

SUHRID,
December 28th, 1875.

11. An anonymous correspondent writes to the *Urdu Guide* drawing attention to the case of Baboo Parmeshwarí Prasád Náráyan Sing of Náhan in Soubah Behár, who has done the following public charitable acts at a great outlay of money, and has not as yet received any tangible recognition from Government. For instance, he has established an aided school in Behár, wherein English, Persian, Urdu, and Hindi are taught, and towards the expenses of which he pays Rs. 107 per mensem. On the establishment of the Mozufferpore Scientific Society he gave a donation of Rs. 4,000, and a monthly subscription of Rs. 30; and on Sir George Campbell's laying the foundation stone of the Society's building, the aforementioned Baboo subscribed Rs. 5,000 towards it. For the teaching of Sanskrit in the Mozzufferpore Dharm Sabhá he subscribed Rs. 2,000, and Rs. 30 a month for its maintenance. Apart from all this, he encourages education by attending to the wants of different schools, and is a member of the Allygurh Scientific Society, and he has also given a donation of Rs. 2,000 towards the foundation of a school of arts and manufactures at Patna, in honor of the visit of the Prince of Wales. His greatest acts of munificence, however, were exhibited during the famines of 1863 and 1868, in the former of which he spent no less than Rs. 27,000. The Baboo has, moreover, travelled about much, visiting places of interest and pilgrimage. He went also to Bombay and was received with much honor by the then Guickwar *Khunderáo*. When out tiger hunting in Nepal, he met with great hospitality from Sir Jung Báhádur, and also received many presents from him. The Baboo has spent lakhs of rupees in charitable gifts and pious purposes, as enjoined by his own religion, all of which acts are everywhere known. It is much to be regretted that our watchful Government does not distinguish between the worthy and the unworthy. A new rising man has only to give a few good entertainments to the civil officers of the place in which he lives, and follow that up with some kind of public work by way of show, when he is at once reported on favourably to Government, and receives a *Khillut* and title; whereas those of high and noble families do many worthy and bountiful acts for the good of the public, to which those who make a show cannot

URDU GUIDE,
December 25th, 1875.

even approach, and Government takes no notice of the former, which must prove injurious, diminishing perforce the number of benevolent, useful, and grateful subjects. Now it is to be observed that no Rajah or Baboo throughout Soubah Behar has done so much towards the progress of education, or aided so much in the famine of 1873, as the Baboo of Náhan. Yet all that he got for his pains, trouble, and expense was a simple letter of thanks from Government, whilst those who did much less than he have got the title of Rajah, or been decorated with the Star of India. Though the Baboo himself does not care for or give a thought about these things, yet those who are bound by gratitude to this land and its Government feel undoubtedly sorrowful and surprised at such conduct on the part of the powers that be.

URDU GUIDE,
December 25th, 1875.

12. A correspondent writing from *Dacca* to this paper, under date the 14th December, objects to the recent redistribution of commissionerships and divisions. He does not understand why Government has placed the zillah of *Noakhali* within the Chittagong division, for it is situated between Commillah and Barisál and is nearer to Dacca than to Chittagong, and it should therefore for all purposes have been attached to the Dacca division.

13. Cholera is raging much round about Dacca, and it is doubtful whether the police have reported the matter, for no doctor has yet been sent to the villages, so that people are dying off for want of proper medicines and medical attendance.

14. Naraingunge is infested with thieves and tigers—the former manage to take away iron safes and trunks from two-storied houses, whilst the latter are destroying men. No clue can be found for the detection of the robbers: perhaps the police are acting in connivance with them.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

R. J. ELLIS,

The 1st January, 1876.

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
1st January 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhārat Shraṅjībī" ...	Baráhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Ashwin, 1282 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartá Prakāshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	Agrahāyan, 1282 B.S.
3	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	16th and 23rd December.
4	"Rājsháhye Samáchar" ...	Karachmárá, Rājsháhye...	Ditto ...	17th and 24th ditto.
5	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Chingripotá, 24-Perghs.	Ditto ...	20th December.
6	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensingh	Ditto ...	21st and 28th December.
7	"Sáptáthik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	21st December.
8	"Vishwa Dút" ...	Káligh, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
9	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Baulea., Rājsháhye ...	Ditto ...	22nd and 29th December.
10	"Amrita Bázár Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	23rd December.
11	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	24th and 31st December.
12	"Grāmvartá Prakāshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	25th December.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
15	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
16	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	23rd, 27th and 30th December.
17	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	22nd to 29th December.
18	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd to 30th ditto.
19	"Bengavidyá Prakāshiká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	29th December.
20	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	25th ditto.
21	"Jám Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.